

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 9 and 17 are independent.

Claims 1, 9, 14 and 17 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. in view of Lim. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a direct drive motor in a washing machine including a stator having a winding portion with coils wound thereon, a rotor having a sidewall, and a rear wall with a pass through hole at a center, an annular washer in close contact with, and fixedly secured to, an outside of the rear wall of the rotor, a connector of resin having a vibration mode different from the rotor, fixedly secured to the rear wall of the rotor for supporting a washing shaft and coupling means for coupling the connector, the rotor, and the washer together. The annular washer is located between the outside of the rear wall of the rotor and the connector.

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kim and Lim.

The claim now recites an annular washer in close contact with, and fixedly secured to, an outside of the rear wall of the rotor, and located between the outside of the rear wall of the rotor and the connector.

The Examiner relies upon Lim for disclosing an annular washer, referring to Figures 3 and 5 and to a washer above nut 35. It is not entirely clear what structure the Examiner refers to, as all elements are numbered and it is not known why the Examiner

did not utilize these numbers. All elements are best seen in the exploded view of Figure 4. It is believed that the Examiner refers to bracket 120. The bracket 120 is not a member located between a rear wall of rotor and a connector to enhance a rigidity of a rotor so as to reduce noise from the rotor. At column 4, line 30-50, Lim states that the bracket (120) functions as a power transferring member for transferring the rotational force of the rotor housing (50) to the lower pulsator shaft (31). Therefore, since the bracket (120) connects the rotor housing (50) and the pulsator shaft (31), the bracket is the functional equivalent of the connector (16) of Kim et al. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art may substitute the bracket (120) of Lim for the connector 16 of Kim, but the resulting combination would not have the elements recited in claim 1.

Claims 9 and 17 have been amended in a similar manner as claim 1 to present claims of varying scope. Applicant respectfully submits that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1, 9 and 17 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kim et al. and Lim, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-20, Applicant submits that these claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, 9 or 17 which are allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-20 are allowable. In addition, these claims recite further limitations which are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art references. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Chris McDonald, Registration No. 41,533, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

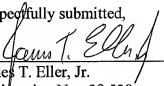
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: FEB 26 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By


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